



**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact: Kristen McDonald**

850-717-5129, [Kristen.McDonald@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Kristen.McDonald@myfloridahouse.gov)

**State Rep. Matt Hudson Testifies at Congressional Hearing on Concerns of State Governments regarding the Implementation of Obamacare**

**Tallahassee, Fla.**—Today in Washington, D.C., Florida State Representative Matt Hudson (R-Naples) testified before a joint meeting of the House Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements and the House Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs regarding the federal implementation of Obamacare and the concerns of state governments. At the hearing, Rep. Hudson addressed Florida's decision not to expand Medicaid, as well as a number of concerns that have arisen regarding the impending implementation of PPACA, including health workforce shortages, excessive premium increases and the haphazard implementation and privacy concerns surrounding health insurance exchanges. Excerpts from Rep. Hudson's testimony are included below.

**PPACA's Medicaid Expansion Will Lead to Poor Care and Cost Overruns**

"Fundamentally, I believe the Medicaid expansion is a flawed approach to reduce the number of uninsured residents in Florida. Rather than temporary assistance targeted to our most vulnerable residents, the optional Medicaid expansion would have created a new entitlement for able-bodied, working age adults without children."

"Expanding Medicaid to more than a million new individuals would undoubtedly make access problems worse. And those who would suffer most would be our most vulnerable residents, including our elderly population and those with disabilities. They would be forced to compete with able-bodied adults for a limited number of appointments."

"Even without expansion, Medicaid spending is crowding out funding for state priorities like education. More than 30 percent of our state budget goes to Medicaid. A little over a decade ago, it was half that. Expanding Medicaid would crowd-out even more of our resources. And



**Representative Steve Crisafulli, Majority Leader**

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even worse, it would prioritize our Medicaid resources on able-bodied, working-age adults, rather than on the most vulnerable.”

### **PPACA Makes Florida’s Health Workforce Shortages Worse**

“Within the next five years, 5,810 (12.97 percent) of Florida’s 44,804 active physicians plan to retire, adding to the workforce shortage dilemma. Florida currently has a shortage of primary care physicians and would need 753 doctors just to eliminate the state’s 248 primary care crisis areas. The implementation of subsidized health insurance through the exchange, plus a PPACA Medicaid expansion, would generate the need for an additional 50,300 registered nurses to meet the demand for health care services in Florida.”

“These shortages will affect access to health care negatively, both with regard to patient caseloads and price. Practitioners will have larger caseloads. Patients will have to wait longer for care and may have difficulty accessing the care they need. Increased demand for fewer resources leads to higher costs.”

“The federal government’s attempts to both increase access to care and reduce costs through PPACA will be thwarted by the failure to address workforce problems.”

### **PPACA Levies Excessive Premium Increases on Florida’s Families**

“PPACA inflicts problems on both the “supply” and the “demand” side of health care. We must have a robust and innovative healthcare workforce to meet the health needs of all Floridians. But we also need to make health insurance more affordable so that Floridians can access that care. Contrary to its name, PPACA fails to make health care more affordable and will price increasing numbers of Floridians out of the healthcare marketplace.”

“Many individuals in the market today are seeing their premiums go up in order to subsidize others. It also means that the young and healthy are going to watch their premiums skyrocket in order to subsidize the old and sick. These provisions also make individuals buy more robust coverage than they currently have, want or even need. And the new taxes and fees on private insurance are simply being passed along to consumers.”

### **Haphazard Implementation of PPACA Exchanges Threatens Both Policymaking and Privacy**

“The decision concerning what kind of exchange would operate in Florida turned on whether there were any meaningful policy choices we could make in a state-based exchange or partnership to tailor the exchange to meet Floridians’ unique needs.”

“However, federal timelines and a lack of information made the legislative process difficult... We were being forced to make this important decision before the federal government had addressed these and many other questions in either rules or guidance.”



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“The final rule for the [federal exchanges] came out in late March of this year, in the middle of Florida’s legislative session and long after the deadlines for deciding to pursue the alternatives to the [federal exchanges]. While the substance of the rules happened to affirm Florida’s policy decision to have a federally-facilitated exchange, the federal timeline made a more thoughtful, informed decision process impossible.”

“These exchanges—and the people helping run the exchanges—will be handling all kinds of personal information of consumers. Consumers will be handing over Social Security numbers, dates of birth, addresses, employment information, tax return information, and much more, not just for the applicants themselves, but for their entire families. This is more than enough personal information for consumers to have their identities stolen.”

“We passed a law in Florida that required the registration with the state of navigators which included background screenings, disqualifications for certain crimes, and penalties for improper actions. During session, the navigator grants had not been awarded, the navigator rules had not been finalized, and the navigator training had not been announced. We didn’t know, and frankly didn’t expect, how little training and oversight the navigators will receive or we would have passed an even more rigorous law in Florida.”

Video of today’s hearing, witness and testimony documents, and hearing documents are available at <http://oversight.house.gov/hearing/federal-implementation-of-obamacare-concerns-of-state-governments/>.

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